



# Conservation Security Program

## Fact Sheet

## Program Implementation in Texas

### Conservation Security Program Overview

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) was authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill to reward farmers and ranchers that are implementing conservation on America's working lands. CSP is a voluntary program based on conservation accomplishments that recognizes the contributions of the best land stewards and encourages them to do more.

### Watershed Approach

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is implementing CSP on a watershed basis due to restraints on both program and technical assistance funding in 2004. Focusing on high priority watersheds will allow NRCS to provide quality service to more applicants than if the program was implemented nationwide. Priority watersheds were selected based on the following criteria:

- Wide variety of land uses and input intensities
- High-priority resource issues to be addressed
- History of good land stewardship
- Availability of necessary technical tools
- Availability of NRCS staff to implement CSP

### Punta De Agua-Tramperos Watershed

CSP is being offered in 18 watersheds in 22 states across the country – two of which were selected in Texas for fiscal year 2004. The Punta De Agua-Tramperos Watershed is located in northeastern New Mexico and the western Panhandle of Texas covering an estimated 1,008,328. The majority of the land is located 13 miles south of Clayton, New Mexico including portions of Union, Quay and Harding counties in New Mexico totaling approximately 653,530 acres. In Texas, the watershed encompasses about 370,760 acres covering portions of Dallam, Hartley and Oldham counties.

The map on the following page outlines the general watershed area. Producers in parts of these counties may qualify to participate in the program.

### For More Information

For more information about CSP, visit your local USDA Service Center, listed in your local directory under U.S. Department of Agriculture or contact David Guest, Texas Watershed Manager at (806) 244-2782 or Ben Creighton, Watershed Team Leader at (505) 374-7262. Information is available at <http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/csp.html> or <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/csp.html>.

The CSP interim final rule with request for public comments was published in the Federal Register on June 9, 2004. The comment period is open for 90 days. By issuing this rule, the NRCS can conduct the program sign-up and implementation this fiscal year. The CSP interim final rule is available at [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/CSP\\_Interim\\_Final\\_Rule6.14.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/CSP_Interim_Final_Rule6.14.pdf).

According to the interim rule, all CSP applications that meet the minimum soil and water quality criteria will be placed in an enrollment category. The Secretary of Agriculture will select the highest ranking applications to be funded.

# Conservation Security Program (CSP) Punta De Agua Watershed

